



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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August 2nd, 2020 : 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People
Sunday 9:30am (St.F) Int.
11:00am (St.F) Int. +Reg Bunt

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am (St.F) Int. Sandra Mealy
Tuesday ST.JOHN VIANNEY
9:30am (St.F) Int. Priests of the Deanery
Wednesday FERIA
9:30am (St.F) Int.
Thursday FEAST OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
8.0am (St.F) Int.
Friday FERIA
Noon (St.F) Int.
Saturday ST.DOMINIC
9.30am (St.F) Int.
6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People

**At present all Masses will take place at St.Felix:
the Convent continues in lockdown for the time
being.**

ST.FELIX CHURCH IS OPEN
HALF AN HOUR BEFORE ADVERTISED
MASSES
AND ALSO 4.0PM-5.0PM
ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, & FRIDAY

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said a quarter of an hour before Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 4.0pm-5.0pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request.

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

THIS WEEK

Monday 2.30pm The Parish Finance Committee meets in the Church Hall.

Thursday The joyful feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Mass at 8.0am

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Rose Mulholland (2014), Sr.George Deane RJM (2008), Joan Jacobi (2012), Kathleen Dunne (2018), Enid Egan (2017), Denis Jones (2000), and Peter Newman (2006). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Over the past two Sundays, £959.58 was given in the Offertory, and £103.43 to CAFOD.

'AS WE ARE'

I've been re-reading, almost by chance (if such a thing is possible), a book by E.F.Benson, best known for his *Mapp and Lucia* comic novels, which were dramatized on television a few years ago. The book is called *As We Are*, written in 1932, and it seems to be strangely apt in the present situation. Benson's subject is the profound changes brought about in English society by the First World War, and people's reaction to those changes. It was, he reminds us, a huge watershed in our national life - things would and could never be the same again after it. He vividly paints pictures of life before and after WW I, marking the

striking contrasts between the two. The book is brilliantly written, and very easy to read. But its content does not make for comfortable reading.

Benson relates how everyone assumed that once the War was over, and victory was achieved, everything would go back to how it was before. The old certainties and conveniences, the old ways of doing things, the old prosperity and security, would all be restored as if nothing had occurred, and the War could be more or less forgotten about. But of course it wasn't like that, it couldn't be like that, and people began to wake up, gradually and uncomfortably to the fact that like it or not, they were living in a new order of things. I don't need to draw parallels with the present situation : relatively light though the Coronavirus pandemic has been compared with WW I , those comparisons are nevertheless all too obvious.

E.F.Benson was not, I think, a particularly religious man, despite - or maybe because of - being a son of the Archbishop of Canterbury. But he didn't leave religion out of his analysis. He notes how people assumed that once the war was over, and the troops came home, people would return to church in the same numbers as before. Of course they didn't. And here is an especially striking parallel with today. Some people said that once our churches re-opened for Services, as they did a month ago, the people would flood in. This hasn't happened. We are just seeing a 'godly remnant' at Mass now, around one third of the numbers before the pandemic struck. I overheard someone say last week 'I'm not going back to Mass until things are back to normal', and I wanted to say 'Things will never be "back to normal"'. It is no good hankering after the past. We have to accept things as they now are. Doing so will be a test of our faith, our courage, and our resolution. Nostalgia will not help us.

7 THINGS WHICH ARE DISTINCTIVE ABOUT ROMAN CATHOLICISM

III. We take very seriously the Doctrine of the Church - its teaching as regards Faith and Morals.

I think that maybe in some parts of the Christian world today, there is a certain wooliness

about what is taught. Doctrines of the Faith and Principles of Morality are taken not too seriously. So long as you are 'kind to grandma and the cat' it doesn't matter too much what you believe and how you behave. This is not the case in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church knows what it believes about God, and how we should live. This clarity and firmness of teaching makes the Catholic Church attractive to many. It is one reason why some of us became Catholic. A glory of the Catholic Church is its Catechism, which appeared a few years ago : *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a great compendium of all that we believe and try to attain to - it sets it all out clearly and logically. Very useful to refer to - no wooliness, no 'maybe this' or 'maybe that'.

But why do we believe that clarity matters, and that people should be fully informed as to what the Church believes? I think because we consider that if God in his mercy and love has made his truth known to the Church, then it is only right for us to be attentive to it, and seek to know it and understand it as fully as we can. And we believe that yes, God has done this, and that he continues, as Jesus promised, to lead the Church 'into all truth' through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is to the whole body, the Church, under the shepherding of the Holy Father, that Truth is revealed. Not to me as an individual. It is always sad to hear someone say 'well I know that is what the Church teaches, but I think differently'. There is an arrogance there, and none of the humility which is found in a true disciple of Christ the Teacher. Nor realism either. Of course the Church down the ages is in a better position to discern the truth than I am as an individual.

As in doctrine, so in morals. Jesus taught us how he wants us to live, and in its moral theology, the Church has meditated on that teaching, led by the Holy Spirit, all down the centuries, and has drawn out its implications. Many today - particularly perhaps in the field of sexual ethics- think that they know better than Jesus and better than his Church. Which is profoundly sad - especially so when it is a Catholic who is so misled.

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Remember that you have chosen to follow a Man who is carrying a Cross, and who might sometimes ask you to share it's weight with Him.